

# QUEERS FIGHT BACK



## ANTI-RACIST ACTION

On November 30th, 1992, a gay man, Yves LaLonde, was beaten to death in Montreal by a group of Neo-Nazis. Yves LaLonde is the ninth gay man to be murdered in the last two years. While the attackers in the previous murders remain unknown, the latest murder is thought to have been carried out by a white-supremacist organization - White Power Canada. Six young neo-nazis were arrested and charged with first-degree murder, which has been understood to be part of an initiation process which includes queer bashing as a prerequisite to joining the organization - unfortunately neither the organization nor the attack are isolated incidents.

Yesterday's papers carried news of yet another gay man who was beaten to death on Saturday Dec. 12th because he was 'believed to be gay'. Another gay man was bashed earlier at the same location, a road-side stopover which is used by gay men as a meeting place. It has been the site of at least 60 bashings in the last few months, despite the fact that these attacks were reported to the police - who had done nothing in response. Even with the most recent murder, the pigs are refusing to lay any murder charges.

### History and Connections

As is so clear in the murder carried out by WHITE POWER CANADA, the far-right and their various outfits have acted as a catalyst for this violence and hatred. Through increasing propaganda, organizing and recruitment efforts, the right has been fomenting the racism, sexism, anti-semitism, division amongst the working class and homophobia which lies at the core of their ideology.

While we fully understand that the far-right has no monopoly on homophobia and queer bashing, we must recognize the significant position this holds in their agenda and the threat they pose to us all. Victory for the Nazis in Germany of the 1930's saw hundreds of thousands of lesbians and gays rounded up, imprisoned in concentration camps and gassed along with 10 million other victims of the Nazi regime.



The neo-fascist movements of today have maintained this agenda and make no secret of it, as is clear from a few quotes;

*"We must endorse and support the law of God, which calls for the death penalty to the faggot slime... we endorse and seek the execution of all homosexuals"* - Thom Robb  
Imperial Wizard of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan

*"I Don't see anything wrong with gay bashing. If queers don't wanna get bashed, they ought to... Stop being queers!"*

- KKK letter to National Lesbian and Gay Task Force.

Aryan Nations of Canada said on their hotline:

*"Thank god for AIDS... Race mixing leads to homosexuality"*



## The Rise of the Right in Canada

The past year has seen an increase in fascist organizing efforts across the country. A network of hotlines and groups have been established across the country. Alberta, Manitoba, Ottawa and Montreal have seen a number of vicious attacks and murders of queers, perpetrated by these groups.

### Toronto

Toronto's neo-Fascist movement is seen as a vanguard by white supremacists across Canada. The Heritage Front, Church of the Creator, Aryan Resistance Movement and a handful of KKK factions are networking and building in this city. The Heritage Front, which acts as a front for Toronto's neo-fascist movement, has been leafletting neighbourhoods, poster-ing and recruiting in high schools, hosting international neo-fascist speakers, holding rallies, making bomb threats, vandalizing community centers, peddling their hate... AND BASHING HERE TOO! They have also been linked to the bombing of the Morgentaler abortion clinic. Yet at the same time they have attempted to present themselves as a legitimate political movement.

### Silence = Death

The rise of Fascism relies on our fear and our silence. We cannot turn a blind eye while they poison our youth with their lies and hatred, instill fear in our communities and murder our brothers and sisters. We cannot allow them to organize in our city and march on our streets. We must ACT UP AND FIGHT BACK! The power to defeat fascism lies in our hands. We must educate and mobilize our communities, stop their organizing in our schools and TAKE BACK OUR STREETS!



### ANTI-RACIST ACTION

ARA came together in response to increased organizing efforts of the far-right and is committed to exposing and opposing these scum. We are organizing workshops and counter-leafletting in high schools; reaching out to different communities and bringing people out onto the streets to show the strength of our opposition as well as our commitment to a multi-racial, multi-cultural, sexually diverse and fun society.

ARA is an open group which makes consensus decision-making a priority. Our meetings are wheelchair accessible and child care is provided. This is what we've done so far:

- Sept. 29, 1992: The Heritage Front organized a march on the Courthouse to defend their hateline. With 40 hours notice, a counterdemonstration was organized which brought out 120 people, far outnumbering the racists. ARA was born.
- Week of November 9: On the anniversary of Kristallnacht, ARA participated in demonstrations against the German government's inaction against the rising tide of neo-Fascism in Germany. Pat Buchanan, representing the mainstreaming of the far right, came to town and ARA and others were

there to tell this *racist, sexist, anti-gay born-again bigot to go away.*

- Nov. 13, 1992: The Heritage Front sponsored a secret rally, hosting several international prominent neo-Nazi speakers. ARA was there to SHUT 'EM DOWN. This time there were 250 of us; their meeting hall was surrounded and pelted with eggs by an angry crowd demanding an end to neo-Nazi organizing in our city. Over a hundred humiliated racists were led single file out of the building under police escort. So much for "white pride".

- We were there on Nov. 30 when Alan Overfield, known to have Heritage Front links, attempted to have his seized arms cache, including rocket launchers and anti-tank weapons, returned to him. Our presence exposed him in the press for what he is: the employer of the leader of the Heritage Front and a dedicated neo-Nazi. As a result, he has yet to get his weapons back.

- ARA is meeting with students, teachers and the Board of Education to share information and develop strategies for getting far right propaganda and recruitment out of the schools.

We are here tonight to respond to the rise in queer-bashings in Montreal – and the queer-bashings in Toronto carried out by young KKK and Heritage Front thugs. They have shown that they are capable and indeed willing to murder. In Toronto, we must stop the killing before it starts. We must organize opposition to neo-Nazis before it is too late. **We're taking back our neighbourhoods, our schools, our communities, and our streets.**

**ANTI-RACIST ACTION, P.O. BOX 664, STATION C, TORONTO M6J 3S1**

## SOLIDARITY MESSAGE TO ANTI-RACIST ACTION AGAINST GAY BASHING FROM THE CANADIAN CENTRE ON RACISM AND PREJUDICE IN MONTREAL:

The CCRP supports the present demonstration against homophobia, lesbophobia and neo-Nazism organized by Anti-Racist Action in the streets of Toronto.

...

We must send a clear message to the hatemongers and the White Supremacists; we will not tolerate intolerance and prejudice.

Homophobia and Lesbophobia are an integral part of the neo Nazi program. Homophobic violence is committed by organized members of hate groups or may be the result of individual action that reflects the hatred and bigotry present in society. But, regardless of the source, such violence challenges all citizens who wish to preserve and fight for equality. We must realize that the fight against homophobia and lesbophobia is an integral part of our struggle against racism and other bigotries. An action like the one organized tonight in Toronto sends a clear message to the Far-Right; we will stand united and we will build a unified movement to combat racism, sexism, homophobia and bigotry in our society. It is by mobilizing all forces at the community level that we will best combat bigotry in our society. We will not remain silent and we will organize.